ICHISUKI
TOSHISHA SPECIAL
COMICS

マイ・プレシャス

My Precious

小田切ほたる

9784887410855

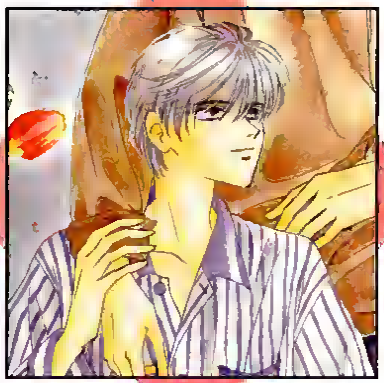
1920979005242

ISBN4-88741-085-9

C0979 ¥524E

冬水社
本体価格524円(別途消費税)

My Precious



ICHISUKI Comics

複雑な家庭環境を持つ日下部未那斗は、天才的なピアノの才能を持つ吉住真故を、唯一心の拠り所としている。一方の真故も、素直な愛情を一心に向けてくる未那斗に、救われる日々が続くが…。小田切ほたるの奏でる、上質で優しいメロディ。

●小田切は楽器が好き。聞くのも弾くのも見るのも好き（描くのはちょっとヤかも…）。ピアノは昔から習いたくて、でも親に『習わせてくれ』とは言えなかった小心者な私。今でも習いたいけれど時間を作る自信のない私…。情けない…。

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いちばん好き6月号
1996/4/24

My Precious 後編
いちばん好き7月号
1996/5/24

きみの言うとおり
キッス4号
1995/9/19

カナダ旅行記
ラキッス10月号
1996/8/24

君のためにできること
描下し
1997/2/24

ICHIBUKI COMICS

小田切ほたる
My Precious
COMICS NO.27
MAYUE MINATO
STORY

大切な
かけがえのない人

scanner: okaasan
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My Precious

小田切ほたる HOTARU OOAGIRI

NERVOUS
NOT WELL.
MY EMOTIONS ARE NOT STABLE LATELY
AH ...
HEY HEY, MAYLIE,
HOW'VE YOU BEEN LATELY?
IT'S ALL THANKS TO YOU, THOUGH!
YOU JUST HAVE TO LET ME HAVE SOME TIME ALONE
DON'T DO ANYTHING I'LL BE FINE ON MY OWN.

TELLING MINATO ABOUT THAT HELPED A LOT.
OR ELSE...
THE SITUATION WOULDN'T HAVE CHANGED.
YOU'RE NOT TOO BAD.
CAN'T DO A THING ABOUT IT, CAN I?
BUT I LIKE BEING A BUSY-BODY!
THAT'S WHY ...
I'VE DECIDED.
I WANT TO PROTECT MY MOST PRECIOUS THING!
GOOD!
YOU FINALLY MADE UP YOUR MIND!
THAT'S GREAT ...!
HAPPY
DO YOUR BEST!

My
マイ
プレシャス
Precious

THE WEATHER HAS BEEN GOOD.
LATELY.
WHEN THE WEATHER WAS LIKE THIS, I USED TO PLAY BASEBALL WITH FATHER.
FATHER.
I WONDER IF HE IS STILL DRINKING ALOT?
WOULD HE BE COLD SLEEPING ON THE FLOOR?
DOES HE EVEN HAVE HIS MEALS ON TIME?
ALL THE LITTLE THINGS ...

MINATO?
WAH!
MAYLIE-SAN, HOW IS YOUR PRACTICE GOING?
THE COMPETITION IS COMING, RIGHT?
WORK HARD! I'LL BE THERE TO CHEER YOU ON.
WHAT ARE YOU DREAMING ABOUT?
IT'S DANGEROUS
HA HA
SORRY...
YEAH
I'LL DO MY BEST.
RIGHT NOW OUR DINNER IS MORE IMPORTANT...
IF MAYLIE-SAN DOES WELL IN THE COMPETITION, THEN HE'LL BE GOING TO VIENNA.
I DON'T WANT TO TROUBLE HIM ANY LONGER.
HE'S DONE SO MUCH FOR ME.
SIGH

I'LL HAVE TO STAND ON MY OWN FEET!
TOMORROW ...
I'LL GO LOOK FOR FATHER.
ARE YOU SURE?
YEAH.
WHAT ...?
BEFORE THIS HAPP-ENED,
I WAS AFRAID THAT HE'D HATE ME, SO I DIDN'T DARE TO
BUT NOW I'LL SEE HIM TOMOR-ROW

I STILL REALLY LOVE MY FATHER.
BUT ... I THOUGHT ABOUT IT AGAIN.
ACTUALLY I'M A BIT AFRAID.
I DON'T WANT THINGS TO BE LIKE THIS BETWEEN US.
THAT'S WHY I'LL TRY MY HARDEST TO MAKE THE SITUATION BETTER.
... AH IT WON'T BE A PROBLEM.
YOU'LL BE ALL RIGHT!
THANK YOU
I'M REALLY GRATEFUL TO HIM,
MAYLIE-SAN'S VOICE AND GESTURES,
REALLY CALM ME DOWN!

IF I DIDN'T HAVE HIM...
I...
WONDER WHAT I'D BECOME?
NO ONE ...
SAID THOSE WORDS HERE,
WHEN MAYUE-SAN...
I WAS REALLY HAPPY

I'LL DO MY BEST, AND USE ALL THE COURAGE I HAVE
I'LL TRY MY HARD-EST,
AH
I REALLY LIKE HIM!
FATHER'S REALLY LATE

IS HE COMING BACK TONIGHT?
MINATO!
WHEN DID YOU COME BACK?
DID YOU STAY AT YOUR FRIEND'S PLACE?
NEXT DOOR'S MRS. A
AH... YEAH... SOMETHING LIKE THAT
YOU DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOUR FATHER!
IT WAS SO SCARY!
EH
WHAT HAPPENED TO MY FATHER?
YESTER-DAY EVENING,
YOUR FATHER COLLAP-SED
FROM ALCOHOL POISONING, AND WAS SENT TO THE HOSPITAL

FATHER...
I'M SORRY!
MINATO?
YOU'RE BACK, MINATO.
FATHER!
I'M SORRY, FATHER.
I LEFT YOU ALONE
I'M SO SORRY!
I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU.

NO...
THE ONE WHO SHOULD APOLOGIZE IS ME
YOU HAVE A FATHER LIKE ME,
CAN YOU...
MINATO...
EVER FORGIVE ME?
EVER SINCE THAT YOUNG MAN TOOK YOU AWAY, I'VE BEEN REGRETTING IT!
AFTER LOSING YOU...
I'VE REALIZED HOW CRUEL I HAVE BEEN!
YOU'RE MY MOST IMPORTANT THING
AH——!
I SHOULDN'T HAVE...

LILI WAH ...
FATHER
RRR!
HEY, HELLO?
MINATO?!
WHAT HAPPENED? I'M WORRIED TO DEATH!
IT'S CLOSE TO MIDNIGHT!
EH?
THE HOSPITAL?!
YEAH, IT'S NOT A BIG PROBLEM
IT'S NOT TOO SERIOUS
HE'LL BE OUT IN A WHILE
AND WELL,
I WAS ABLE TO RECONCILE WITH FATHER.

I SEE
THAT'S GREAT
HE ALREADY PROMISED ME,
THAT HE WOULDN'T DRINK ANYMORE.
OH
FATHER ALSO ASKED ME TO CONVEY MY THANKS TO MAYUE-SAN
I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING!
MINATO,
YOU DON'T NEED TO COME TO TOMOR-
COMPE-TITION
STAY WITH YOUR FATHER.
ALRIGHT...
I KNOW, IT'S JUST THAT I WISH I COULD GO

MINATO, DO YOU WANT TO COME ALONG?
THE TEMPERATURE DROPPED SO SUDDENLY...
IT ISN'T NOTICEABLE IN DAYLIGHT...
RAMEN! LET'S GO EAT RAMEN!
WAH IT'S SO COLD!

AH... NOPE.
IT'S SO LATE, I SHOULD GO NOW. GOOD NIGHT.
WHAT NOW? DON'T TELL ME THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE, MINATO.
THAT'S WHAT I WANTED TO TELL HIM
DO YOUR BEST!
I HAD THIS SUDDEN FEELING
IF MAYLIE-SAN DOES WELL IN THIS COMPETITION
THEN HE'LL BE OFF TO VIENNA.
THAT HE WOULD BE GOING TO A PLACE FAR, FAR AWAY

MINATO
MR. YOSHIZUMI, YOU'RE UP NEXT.
YES!
RIGHT NOW YOU'RE ON BETTER TERMS WITH YOUR FATHER,
WAS IT BECAUSE
OF WHAT I SAID AND DID THAT DAY?
HMMM, BUT WHAT I SAID WAS KIND OF OVER-DONE
I'M SO ANXIOUS!
THE NEXT UP IS MAYUE, RIGHT?
OR IS IT THE NEXT?
OR THE ONE AFTER THAT?
WAH?!
AH!
WHY ARE YOU SO ANXIOUS? YOU'RE NOT THE ONE PERFORMING!
CALM DOWN!
I SAID CALM DOWN!
YOU JUST DON'T SEE THOSE THINGS WHICH ARE TOO CLOSE TO YOU OR THOSE THAT ARE PRECIOUS.
NUMBER 11!

THAT'S WHY HE STOPPED ME FROM PURSUING A MUSIC EDUCATION
AFTER MOTHER DIED, FATHER REALIZED HOW IMPORTANT SHE HAD BEEN TO HIM.
MAYBE MY FATHER WAS LIKE THAT TOO?
T ART UNIVERSITY'S MR. YOSHIZUMI MAYUE,
PLAYING
HE DIDN'T WANT ME TO FOLLOW IN HIS FOOTSTEPS
DON'T WORRY, FATHER!
I'LL NEVER LET MY PRECIOUS SLIP AWAY FROM ME
I'LL NEVER MAKE THAT MISTAKE!

FATHER,
MAYLIE-SAN SHOULD BE ARRIVING SOON
I'LL WAIT FOR HIM DOWNSTAIRS.
AH.
HE CAME EVEN THOUGH HE WAS BUSY
LET'S HOPE HE WINS THE COMPETITION
IT WON'T BE A PROBLEM
close

THEN,
HE'LL GO TO VIENNA
AND I'LL...
CONGRATULATE HIM FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART!

I'LL CONGRATULATE HIM...
WHEN I SEE HIM,

REALLY,
MAYUE-SAN...
HE'LL WIN!

AH
MEN
MINATO!

I CAN'T,
I CAN'T DO IT
MINATO
HOW'S YOUR FATHER?
I CAN'T DO IT!
NO. NO WAY.!
I DON'T WANT HIM TO GO...!
AH.
HE'S GETTING BETTER.
THAT'S GOOD.
SHALL WE...
GO TO THE COURT-YARD?
WHAT DO I DO...?

MAYUE-SAN.
DID YOU WIN?
YEAH!
FIRST PLACE
AH HE'S MORE TALENTED THAN I THOUGHT
HE GOT FIRST PLACE
THERE'S NO WAY HE CAN STAY HERE
HE'LL BE GOING TO VIENNA, THEN

I'VE REALIZED THAT TOO LATE!
CAN I BEAR LOSING HIM...?
IT WAS RECORDED, DO YOU WANT TO HEAR IT?
HOW DO I GET ON,
WITHOUT HIM?
IT WAS A GREAT PERFORMANCE, RIGHT?
I WISH I HAD BEEN THERE!
HE'S GOING TO LEAVE ME!
THIS IS THE CERTIFICATE.
QUICK SAY IT! CONGRATULATE HIM!
WHY...?
TELL HIM
AM I REALLY OKAY?
I REALLY DO CARE ABOUT HIM!
CON-GRATU-LATIONS, MAYUZUMI.
I COULDN'T BRING THE TROPHY.
NOW YOU CAN GO TO VIENNA.

I'VE REJECTED THE OFFER.
OH... THAT...
EH?
WHY DID YOU GO AND REJECT THAT OFFER?
E/H
DIDN'T YOU SAY THAT IF YOU WON YOU WOULD HAVE A CHANCE TO GO TO VIENNA!?
I SAID I WOULD DO MY BEST,
BUT I NEVER SAID THAT I WOULD BE GOING.
WHY? I DON'T UNDERSTAND.
IF YOU DIDN'T WIN I WOULD STILL UNDERSTAND,
BUT YOU WON! WHY DID YOU REJECT IT?
I PROMISED YOU THAT I WOULD DO MY BEST!
AS FOR REJECTING THAT OFFER,
IT'S BECAUSE I WISH TO STAY WITH YOU!

I HAVE TO GO NOW
SORRY, I NEED TO GO SOMEWHERE ELSE...
WHERE DOES HE GO?
LATELY, HE'S BEEN RUSHING OFF AFTER MUSIC CLUB PRACTICE
I'VE HEARD THAT HE GOES TO THE HOUSE
REJECTED AGAIN...
OF A MUSICIAN WHO LIVES NEARBY
WOW... EVEN AFTER MUSIC PRACTICE IS OVER, HE STILL GOES IN SEARCH FOR MORE MUSIC?
BUT THE LAST TIME I GOT HIM TO PLAY MUSIC,
LOOKS LIKE HE REALLY LIKES IT
HE DIDN'T SEEM VERY PASSIONATE ABOUT IT

EH?
THE PERFORMANCE I PLAYED TODAY,
WAS FOR YOU.
MAYUE-SAN...
"HE GOT THIS FROM HIS MOTHER"
I WILL KEEP PLAYING FOR YOU.
EVEN IF YOU'RE NOT SITTING NEXT TO ME TO LISTEN...

MINATO
I'LL PROBABLY BE PERFORMING IN FRONT OF LOTS OF PEOPLE IN THE FUTURE
BUT I PLAY, ONLY FOR YOU.
I WILL NEVER PLAY FOR SOMEONE ELSE.
I'LL ONLY PLAY FOR YOU.
UNDERSTAND?
AH...?

I LOVE YOU!
YOU'RE LYING
YOU DON'T BELIEVE WHAT I SAY?
UNTIL JUST NOW
I ALWAYS THOUGHT THAT YOU'D BE GOING TO VIENNA.
IT WAS SO HARD
IT WASN'T EASY FOR ME TO CONGRATULATE YOU, KNOWING THAT YOU WERE GOING AWAY
HONESTLY, I DIDN'T WANT YOU TO GO

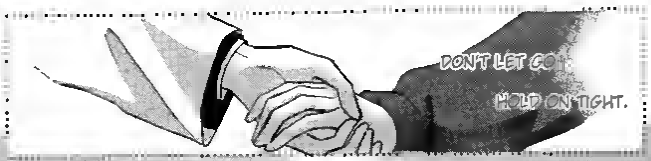
ACTUALLY...
I WANT TO STAY WITH YOU
THAT'S WHY I'M AFRAID TO BELIEVE WHAT YOU'VE SAID!
I'M NOT LYING TO YOU. I'LL STAY WITH YOU.
TO ME, MINATO'S EXISTENCE IS NECESSARY.
YOU'VE FINALLY FOUND IT...
THE COURAGE TO SAY WHAT YOU WANT.
YOU COULD HAVE SAID "DON'T GO STUDY ABROAD"
BUT YOU LOOKED SO FLIPPANT ABOUT ME GOING AWAY,
THAT'S SO MEAN
EH... YEAH... SORRY.
.....
OUCH!
WHAT'S WRONG?
I THOUGHT I WAS DREAMING...
I PINCHED MYSELF TOO HARD

YOU'RE BEING TOO STUB-BORN
HE KEEPS SAYING THINGS THAT I WANT TO HEAR!
YOU BELIEVE IT NOW ?
I'M SERIOUS ABOUT YOU
TO ME
AH YEAH!
BUT THE THING WITH VIENNA... IT'S A PITY!

NOT LIKE IT'LL ONLY COME ONCE
I'LL HAVE PLENTY OF CHANCES.
NEXT TIME YOU'LL COME WITH ME!
WHAT ?
RIGHT NOW WE CAN'T GO.
BUT NEXT YEAR THERE SHOULDN'T BE ANY PROBLEMS.
BY THEN YOU'D HAVE ALREADY GRADUATED.
TO ME, MY MOST PRECIOUS PERSON IS IRREPLACEABLE.

FOR THAT PRECIOUS THING
REACH OUT
AH
IF
AND GRAB IT TIGHTLY!
IF THERE WAS A CHANCE,
I'D DEFINITELY GO WITH YOU
YOU WANT TO BE HAPPY
DON'T LIKE IT?

ONCE YOU HAVE IT IN YOUR HANDS ..



DON'T EVER
LET GO!

◆ My Precious / end ◆

君のためにできること
EPILOGUE
MAYUE-SAN IS REALLY A CHARISMATIC MAN
PEOPLE JUST GATHER AROUND HIM SO NATURALLY
SO MANY GIRLS
HEY HEY,
MINATO, WERE YOU LISTENING?
AH HA HA!
H...
YES, I WAS!
TURN
I'M SO SILLY!
CAN'T BELIEVE I'M GETTING JEALOUS OVER THESE THINGS
AND TODAY'S PERFORMANCE!
THOSE ARE JUST HIS FANS!
HE PLAYED IT JUST FOR ME!
I LOVE YOU MORE ND MORE,EVERYD Y
AS FOR ME...
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
H!
MAYUE-SAN!

MINATO!
MAYLIE-SAN
COME WITH ME
WHAT'S WRONG?
YOU'RE THE STAR TONIGHT, YOU CAN'T JUST LEAVE!
MAYLIE-SAN
AH ..

I WAS JEALOUS
MAYUE-SAN...
BUT,
USUALLY WHEN WE'RE IN PUBLIC, HE WOULDN'T DO SUCH A THING
WHAT HAPPENED?
NOTHING!
YOU SUDDENLY...
MAYUE-SAN...
WHAT HAPPENED!?
NOTHING, REALLY
EH?
I'M ALL RIGHT NOW
I KNOW I'M BEING VERY CHILDISH!
BUT I WAS JEALOUS!
JEALOUS?
NO MATTER WHO YOU'RE WITH, YOU'RE ALWAYS SMILING
YOU SMILE TO EVERYONE!
BECAUSE...

HEY,
MAYLIE!

YOU FOOLED US ALL!
YOU DIDN'T SEEM LIKE YOU WANTED TO JOIN, BUT YOU WON FIRST PLACE IN THE PIANO COMPETITION!
BUT MAYLIE'S PIANO PLAYING TALENT IS REALLY IMPRESSIVE!
CONGRATULATIONS ON WINNING THE COMPETITION

◆君のためにできること／おわり◆

TO CELEBRATE THE GENIUS MAYLIE'S GLORIOUS FUTURE,
LET US ALL HAVE A CELEBRATORY MEAL!
AGREED!
SORRY TO DISAPPOINT YOU,
BUT I'M NOT GOING
MINATO
MAYLIE HAS BEEN ANTISOCIAL LATELY
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? EVERYONE IS GOING BECAUSE OF YOU!
YOU PEOPLE ARE JUST LOOKING FOR AN EXCUSE TO HAVE FUN.

BECAUSE I WAS FREE AFTER MY SCHOOL ACTIVITIES, AND YOU FINISHED YOURS TOO
BUT I DIDN'T WAIT LONG
MAYLIE -SAN
AH!
HMM...
YOU
WHY ARE YOU WAITING FOR ME HERE? IT'S SO COLD
FINE.
IF YOU INSIST

Here, wear this.
BUT IF YOU DIDN'T WAIT THAT LONG,
WHY IS YOUR SKIN SO ICY-COLD?
LET'S GO
OKAY...
DID YOU SEE THAT?
YES! YES, I DID!
So close!
SO THAT BOY IS MAYLIE'S "CLITE MINATO", HUH?
THAT'S WHY HE SAID HE WASN'T FREE
HE'S SUCH A GOOD-LOOKING BOY,
WHY MAYLIE LIKES HIM SO MUCH
IT'S UNDER-STANDABLE...

MAYUE-SAN, WHAT IS THIS PLAQUE?
OH.
WE HAD A PIANO PERFORMANCE AT SCHOOL TODAY.
I PLAYED THE PIANO, SO THEY GAVE IT TO ME.
OH! WHAT PIECE DID YOU PLAY?
I'D LIKE TO LISTEN TO IT TOO
I KNEW YOU WOULD SAY THAT
SO THAT MEANS YOU'LL PLAY IT FOR ME?

THE FIRST TIME I HEARD IT, I THOUGHT IT WAS A GIRL WHO WAS PLAYING
GENTLE
SOOTHING RHYTHM
THAT DAY I FOLLOWED THE LONGER ROUTE HOME
AND THE WIND CARRIED THE MUSIC TO ME
I DON'T KNOW WHY, BUT I WAS DRAWN TO THE MUSIC
I WANTED TO GET CLOSER TO IT

MY HEART FELT SO PEACEFUL THEN...
AND I CONTINUED LISTENING FOR A WEEK,
UNTIL ONE DAY
OPEN
COME INTO THE HOUSE
DON'T JUST SIT THERE.
WAA

IS THERE ANYTHING THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO LISTEN TO?
HUH ?
YOU CAN PICK ANY SONG
I WAS TRESPASSING BUT HE DIDN'T MENTION A WORD
HE EVEN AGREED TO LET ME CONTINUE LISTENING
SUR PRISE
IT'S A GUY...
THIS
UM. THEN
"TO ALICE."
BUT IT'S THE ONLY ONE I KNOW
IT WAS AT THAT MOMENT I REVEALED I WAS NOT MUSICALLY INCLINED
OKAY
EVERYONE KNOWS THIS SONG

HE'S SO GOOD!
THE TUNE SOUNDS SO DIFFERENT...
"TO ALICE" LIKE I HAD NEVER HEARD BEFORE
THAT WAS.
CLAP
CLAP
I'M KUSAKABE MINATO
CAN I COME LISTEN TO YOU PLAY AGAIN?
Hmm
YOU ARE WELCOMED ANYTIME
I'M YOSHIZUMI MAYUE.
YOU'RE SO GOOD! YOU DIDN'T EVEN NEED TO READ THE MUSIC SHEET!
THANK YOU.
THE TUNE YOU PLAY IS VASTLY DIFFERENT FROM WHAT I'VE HEARD
HOW DO I SAY IT? YOU'RE JUST SO COOL!

I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO IT!
AND SO FAR
I'VE BEEN DOING THIS FOR 2 MONTHS...
YES...
I REALLY LIKE IT
MY PIANO PLAYING?
THAT TOO BUT...
I WAS TALKING
ABOUT MAYLIE-SAN

I'M SERIOUS.
I REALLY LIKE MAYUE -SAN
ABOUT MAYUE -SAN.
HA HA
I'M DEEPLY HONORED.
SILLY BOY.
SIGH

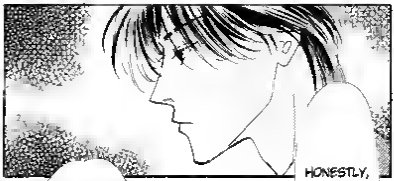
EVEN IF I SAID THAT I LIKED HIM,
HE WOULD NEVER GIVE A SERIOUS ANSWER.
MAYE-SAN ENDS UP AVOIDING THIS TOPIC
IT'S ALWAYS LIKE THIS
AH! IT'S A SHOOTING STAR!
PLEASE
MAKE MAYUE-SAN LIKE ME TOO,
HOW'S A LITTLE THIGHY
THE POSSIBILITIES OF THIS WISH COMING TRUE
ARE PROBABLY CLOSE TO ZERO
BECAUSE I REALLY LIKE MAYUE-SAN
BUT I HAVE TO AT LEAST MAKE AN EFFORT TO WISH

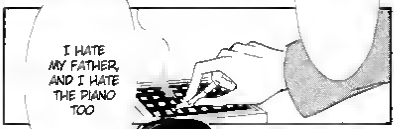
MAYLIE REALLY IS GOOD
HE WAS ALREADY VERY GOOD PREVIOUSLY.
BUT RECENTLY HE IMPROVED A LOT!
HOW DO I SAY IT? IS IT BECAUSE THERE IS PASSION IN HIS PLAYING...
OR IS IT BECAUSE HIS PLAYING HAS BECOME MORE REFINED AND TASTEFUL?

VERY GOOD, EXCELLENT PERFORMANCE
YOUR FATHER, THE MUSICIAN WHO WAS THE PRIDE OF JAPAN, WOULD BE PROUD OF YOU
AND THE OVERALL RHYTHM OF THE PIECE WAS
EVEN THOUGH WE MISS HIM DEEPLY, WE BELIEVE THAT YOU ARE WORTH WATCHING FOR
THAT WAS INDEED A GOOD PERFORMANCE,
I WAS SO DEEPLY IMMERSED!
MAYLIE IS SO HANDSOME
IF YOU HAD A FULL-SCALE CONCERT PERFORMANCE, MANY PEOPLE WOULD ATTEND

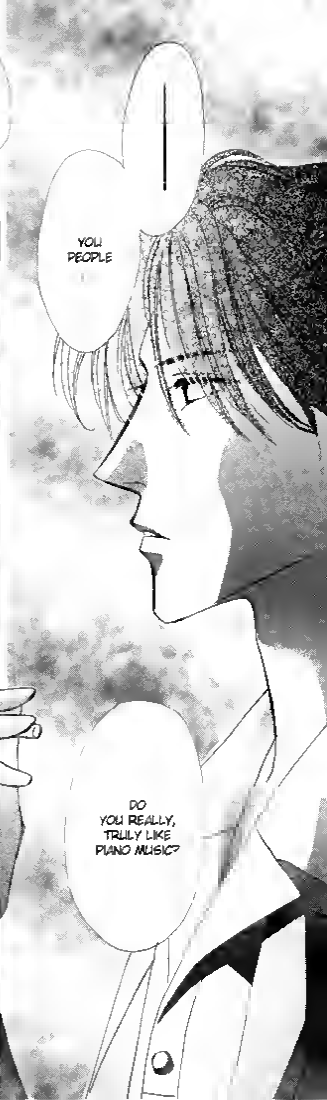
MAYUE,
CAN YOU PLAY FOR ME NEXT TIME?
Well, me!
LOOK WHO'S TALKING, YOU'RE JUST JEALOUS OF MAYUE.
HEY, DON'T TALK LIKE YOU KNOW EVERYTHING ABOUT HIM.
YOUR PLAYING IS REALLY GOOD!
YEAH! YOU HAVE TO PLAY FOR ME TOO!
SINCE YOU'RE SO GOOD!
MAYBE I COULD LEARN A FEW TECHNIQUES FROM YOU?
HEY! NO WAY!
YOU CAN'T DO THAT!
I WAS HOPING THAT YOU'D PLAY ONLY FOR ME. ♡
DIDN'T I JUST DO THAT?
NO! NOT THAT KIND!

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
DON'T YOU PLAY THE PIANO BECAUSE YOU LIKE IT?
DIDN'T YOU GO AGAINST YOUR FATHER'S WISHES TO PLAY THE PIANO ANYWAY?
YOU RESPECTED HIM VERY MUCH, DIDN'T YOU?


HONESTLY,


I HATE MY FATHER, AND I HATE THE PIANO TOO

IT'S ONLY JUST LATELY THAT...


YOU PEOPLE
DO YOU REALLY, TRULY LIKE PIANO MUSIC?

WHAT?
I HEARD THAT HE WENT AGAINST HIS FATHER'S WISHES AND BECAME A PIANIST.
SO I THOUGHT THAT HE REALLY LIKES PLAYING IT
SO CONFUSING
THAT MEANS,
EVEN THOUGH HE DOESN'T LIKE PLAYING, HE CAN PLAY WELL
HE'S A GENIUS!
"IT'S JUST ONLY LATELY THAT..." DOES THAT MEAN HE DOESN'T HATE IT NOW?
OH YEAH
HEY, IS THIS BECAUSE...
OF THAT BOY MINATO'S INFLUENCE?

MAYUE -SAN,
WHAT IS THAT CHAIN THAT YOU ARE ALWAYS WEARING?
IT LOOKS LIKE A RING
I COULDN'T WEAR IT ON MY FINGER, SO I PUT IT ON A CHAIN INSTEAD
WANT TO HAVE A LOOK?
THIS IS WHAT MY MOTHER LEFT ME
MY FATHER BOUGHT IT,
HE PROPOSED TO HER,
SAYING "FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE I SHALL ONLY PLAY FOR YOU!"
THAT'S SUCH A BEAUTIFUL WAY TO PROPOSE,
YOUR FATHER MUST HAVE LOVED YOUR MOTHER VERY MUCH

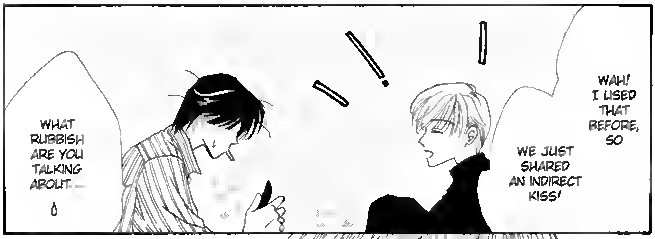
I DON'T KNOW
MY FATHER DIDN'T SEEM TO CARE FOR ANYONE OR ANYTHING, EXCEPT FOR HIS PIANO
AND HE WASN'T HOME MOST OF THE TIME
OH
BUT WHEN YOUR MOTHER TOLD YOU ABOUT
HOW YOUR FATHER PROPOSED TO HER, SHE MUST HAVE BEEN SMILING, RIGHT?
YES
IF SHE HAD SMILED, THAT MEANS SHE MUST HAVE BEEN REALLY HAPPY
MY MOTHER
NEVER EVEN TOLD ME ANYTHING LIKE THIS
I NEVER ONCE THOUGHT ABOUT
THE LOVE BETWEEN MY PARENTS
DID MY DAD
KNOW HOW TO LOVE A PERSON ?
NOT EVEN ONCE
IF YATO HADN'T MENTIONED IT
I WOULDN'T HAVE GIVEN IT ANY THOUGHT

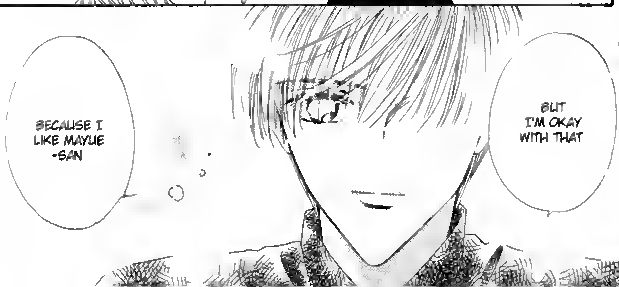
IS THAT A FLUTE ?
YOU'RE STILL USING THAT?
YEAH, I'M NOT SO GOOD AT IT,
SO I WANTED TO TAKE IT HOME TO PRACTICE
IT BELONGS TO THE SCHOOL
I DIDN'T WANT TO GO HOME, SO I USED MUSIC PRACTICE AS A MEAN OF ESCAPE
I'M NOT SINCERE ABOUT IT. MAYBE THAT'S WHY I'M NOT VERY GOOD
OH... YEAH, THAT
LET ME TRY
EH? EH?
MAYLIE-SAN KNOWS HOW TO PLAY A FLUTE TOO?
I'VE TRIED PLAYING MANY INSTRUMENTS BEFORE

LEND ME YOUR FLUTE FOR A WHILE.
AH... OKAY!
HOW IMPRESS-IVE... SO impressed
How unlike men, who can't even play one instrument properly

I'M ASKING MYSELF

IS THERE ANYTHING IMPORTANT TO ME THAT IS IRREPLACEABLE?





.....
MAYUE-SAN'S GENTLENESS
HAS CAUGHT ME TIGHTLY
EACH TIME
MAYUE-SAN NEVER QUESTIONS ME,
HE SILENTLY LETS ME STAY BY HIS SIDE
WHEN I HEAR MAYUE-SAN'S VOICE I FEEL VERY SAFE AND SECURE
THAT'S WHY I WANT TO STAY NEAR YOU!
I'M GRATEFUL

NO
THAT YOU SAVED ME
THE ONE WHO WAS TRULY SAVED IS
THAT'S NOT RIGHT
THE ONE WHO FOUND REDEMPTION IS ME.

MINATO!
ARE YOU GOING STRAIGHT HOME TODAY?
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO THE PIANIST'S HOUSE?
YEAH.
BECAUSE SCHOOL ENDED LATE TODAY
WHAT KIND OF PERSON IS THAT PIANIST?
HE'S VERY NICE
WHEN HE PLAYS THE PIANO, HE'S VERY COOL AND SUAVE

MINATO, YOU REALLY
LIKE THAT PERSON, DON'T YOU?
YEAH
I LIKE HIM.
EH?
BUT HE'S ALSO VERY GENTLE,
MAKING PEOPLE FEEL LIKE
IT'S WORTH IT LIVING IN THIS WORLD
WHEN I'M RIGHT NEXT TO HIM I FEEL SAFE

FATHER, YOU'RE DRINKING AGAIN!
DON'T DRINK SO MUCH. LOOK AFTER YOUR HEALTH INSTEAD!
I'M BACK
FATHER, YOU'RE BACK ALREADY?
SLAP
.....
YOU SHOULD NOT EXIST ON THIS WORLD!
YOU ARE AN UNWANTED CHILD!
IF YOU HATE YOUR HOME SO MUCH,
THEN DON'T COME BACK!
HOW ABOUT YOU?
YOU'RE ALWAYS BACK SO LATE

STUDYING ABROAD IN VIENNA?
THAT'S RIGHT.
THE MUSIC MAESTRO WHO'S FAMOUS FOR NOT HAVING APPRENTICES,
IS NOW READY TO SELECT A STUDENT FROM OUR SCHOOL TO BE TUTORED UNNDER HIM
I TALKED TO HIM, AND RECOMMEND -ED YOU!
YOU'VE ALREADY ENTERED THE JAPANESE MUSIC COMPETITION, WHICH IS HELD EARLY NEXT MONTH, RIGHT?
THE FINAL DECISION DEPENDS ON THE RESULT OF THE COM -PETITION
EVEN THOUGH IT'S ALREADY VERY IMPRESSIVE THAT YOU HAVE SELECTED TO PARTICIPATE,
STUDYING ABROAD IS STILL A VERY IMPORTANT MATTER, SO I HOPE YOU WILL WORK HARD FOR THE COMPETITION.

Take care
We'll see you at the competition
BUT WE BELIEVE THAT NOBODY CAN BEAT YOU,
NO MATTER HOW GOOD THEY ARE
YOU ARE SO LUCKY!
I'M SO ENVIOUS!
STUDYING ABROAD... WHAT A FANTASTIC OPPORTUNITY!
WE ALL HEARD!
NOTHING HAS BEEN DECIDED YET
THE RESULTS OF THE COMPETITION WILL DETERMINE EVERYTHING

IS THAT IT?
BUT SINCE YOU'RE SO GOOD ANYWAY, IT WON'T BE A PROBLEM
Don't worry
YOU'LL DEFINITELY WIN
IS THAT SO?
THERE ARE MANY OTHER TALENTED MUSICIANS IN THIS COUNTRY.
YOU WON'T ...
GIVE UP AT THE COMPETITION, WILL YOU?
WHY WOULD I?

UNLESS
YOU'D DO IT FOR THAT MINATO BOY?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH HIM!
...
CREAK

HIS EYES LOOK LIKE THEY WANT TO CRY
BUT HE WON'T LET HIMSELF CRY.
MAYUE -SAN

WHY ARE YOU WAITING HERE, WHERE IT'S SO COLD?
COME INSIDE FIRST, WE'LL TALK.
HAVEN'T I GIVEN YOU THE KEY TO MY HOUSE YET?
I'M SORRY.
I HEARD YOU WOULD BE LATE TODAY, BUT I CAME ANYWAY.
ARE YOU TIRED?
I'M FINE. LET'S NOT TALK ABOUT THIS FIRST.
WHAT HAPPENED?

MY EXISTENCE IS UNNE-CESSARY
MINATO
HE SAID THAT I WAS AN UNWANTED CHILD
AND ALSO
THAT I SHOULDN'T EXIST IN THIS WORLD
AND IT IS A BURDEN FOR MY FATHER TO CARRY
HA HA
I'M SORRY THAT I HAVE TO TELL YOU ALL THESE THINGS

YOU SILLY BOY HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN HOW TO CRY?
CAN I ... REALLY CRY?
IN THIS SORT OF MOMENTS YOU CAN CRY ALL YOU LIKE
YOU DON'T NEED TO ASK.

MY FATHER IS ACTUALLY A GOOD MAN,
I KNOW.
HE USED TO PLAY WITH ME WHEN I WAS LITTLE.
EVEN AFTER MY MOTHER LEFT, HE TOOK CARE OF ME,
HE EVEN LET ME GO TO SCHOOL.
I KNOW.
GRAB

I KNOW EVERYONE SAYS THAT HE IS A LOUSY FATHER,
BUT I STILL LOVE HIM VERY MUCH
I KNOW

AND WHEN YOU LOVE, IT HURTS WHEN
YOUR OWN EXISTENCE IS BEING DENIED
YOU CAN STAY HERE,
IT'S NOT A PROBLEM.
I CRIED MYSELF TO SLEEP, HUH?

STEP
HE LOOKS JUST LIKE AN ABANDONED KITTEN.
HOW CAN I LEAVE HIM...
AND GO ALONE TO VIENNA?
HE CAN'T DO ANYTHING BY HIMSELF. HE NEED TO BE BY HIS SIDE...
I JUST CAN'T PACK UP AND LEAVE HIM HERE!

YES-TERDAY I CRIED UNTIL I FELL SLEEP
AND I USED MAYUE-SAN'S BED UNTIL I WOKE UP!

I MUST APOLOGIZE TO HIM!
I COULD SEE THAT THERE WERE IMPRESSIONS ON THE SOFA. I'M SURE HE SLEPT THERE
EVEN THOUGH MAYUE-SAN GOT UP AND LEFT EARLY,

EVEN IF MAYUE-SAN DOESN'T FEEL THE SAME
I'LL BE SATISFIED AS LONG AS HE LETS ME REMAIN BY HIS SIDE.
I REALLY LIKE MAYUE -SAN

EXCUSE ME! IS MR MAYUE
OH, IT'S YOU!
MAYUE IS HAVING A DISCUSSION WITH HIS TEACHER
YOU MIGHT HAVE TO WAIT A LITTLE LONGER.
OH, I SEE THANK YOU
ARE YOU MINATO?
DO YOU KNOW THAT
HE'S GOING TO STUDY ABROAD SOON?
I DIDN'T KNOW
WHAT ABOUT IT?
YOU REALLY DON'T KNOW

OH ALRIGHT
SO
COULD YOU PLEASE TELL ME?
HE WANTS TO TAKE MAYLIE IN AS AN APPRENTICE
WHO HAS NOTICED MAYLIE'S TALENT
TO CUT A LONG STORY SHORT, THERE'S A MUSIC MAESTRO IN VIENNA
MAYLIE'S NOT VERY INTERESTED IN PLAYING
WOW IS MAYLIE-SAN REALLY THAT IMPRESSIVE?
HE IMPROVED A LOT LATELY
HOWEVER, HE IS EXCELLENT AT IT
THIS IS A CONTRADICTION
HE PROBABLY GOT AWARDS

I JUST HOPE THAT YOU WON'T BECOME HIS BURDEN
THIS IS A BIG OPPORTUNITY FOR MAYUE.
WITH HIS TALENTS, HE SURELY WILL BE SUCCESSFUL IN THE FUTURE
ALTHOUGH I'M NOT SURE WHAT THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO OF YOU IS
BUT I THINK HE MAY GIVE THAT CHANCE U?...
BEC USE OF YOU...
I AM
AH
MINATO

I'M JUST SO STUPID!
I DIDN'T EVEN REALIZE ANYTHING
I'M JUST A BURDEN
I'M A BURDEN TO HIM.
TO MAYUE -SAN,
I'M JUST A BURDEN!!

WHAT HAPPENED TO MINATO...
WHAT'S GOING ON?
I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM FOR 4 DAYS...
THIS NEVER HAPPENED BEFORE.
THAT'S ODD.
WHAT'S GOING ON?
MAYUE, SORRY FOR MAKING YOU WAIT!

YOUR FRIEND... MINATO,
WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM?
WHY... ARE YOU ASKING?
WELL, IT WAS WRONG OF ME NOT TO TELL YOU.
I TOLD HIM...
ABOUT YOUR CHANCE TO STUDY ABROAD.
YOU TOLD HIM?
WHY NOT?
BECAUSE YOU'RE DRAGGING YOUR HEELS
ABOUT STUDYING ABROAD.
AND THAT'S JUST BECAUSE YOU DON'T WANT TO LEAVE HIM!

MAYUE!
I TOLD HIM THAT TOO...
RIGHT?
BUT HE'S GOT THE RIGHT TO KNOW THAT TOO!

DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE NAMED MINATO?
ARE YOU PART OF THE SCHOOL BAND?
MINATO. HE WENT BACK EARLY
OKAY.
THANKS!
IF HE CAME TO SCHOOL,
THEN THAT MEANS HE ISN'T SICK!
I DON'T THINK HE WOULD GO HOME.
SO WHERE THE HELL IS HE?
Haa
Haa

SHOCK
MINATO!
I LOOKED ALL OVER FOR YOU.
AH! MAYUE-SAN!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU IN 4 DAYS
GRAB

SHOCK
EVEN IF I'M ALONE, I'LL BE FINE...
I'M OKAY!
SO THAT'S WHY I'M NOT GOING TO YOUR HOUSE ANYMORE!
...
SO WHY...
ARE YOU WASTING YOUR TIME HERE?
THAT'S BE-CAUSE
AND ALSO...
WHAT'S WITH THE BAND-AID?
DID YOUR FATHER HIT YOU AGAIN?

THAT'S BE-CAUSE
WHY DO YOU LIE?
NO...
YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT ME...
THAT'S WHY YOU ARE HESITANT ABOUT STUDYING ABROAD!
YOUR FRIEND TOLD ME SO!
IF THAT'S SO, YOU SHOULD BE PRACTICING INSTEAD OF BEING HERE.
SO IT'S BE-CAUSE OF THIS.
THERE'S NOT MUCH TIME ANYMORE!
ACTUALLY, IT'S NOT EVEN DECIDED WHETHER I'M QUALIFIED TO GO.
IT ALL DEPENDS ON THE RESULTS OF THE COMPETI-TION THAT IS COMING UP.
BESIDES, YOU DON'T DISTURB MY PRACTICES ANYWAY.
NOW'S NOT THE TIME TO DISCUSS ABOUT ME.

DON'T LIE TO ME!
AREN'T YOU WASTING YOUR TIME NOW?
YOU COULD HAVE USED THIS TIME TO DO SOMETHING BETTER!
GO BACK, MAYUE-SAN!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME!
DON'T BE SILLY!
YOU THINK BY LEAVING YOU HERE,
I'M JUST GOING TO PLAY MY PIANO?
AT THIS VERY MOMENT
YOUR MATTERS ARE MORE IMPORTANT THAN MINE

MAYUE-SAN'S MATTERS ARE MORE IMPORTANT...
IT CONCERNS YOUR FUTURE, DOESN'T IT?
PLEASE, JUST THINK OF YOURSELF, OKAY?
HE HAS A VERY BRIGHT FUTURE...
HE HAS A LOT OF TALENT...
IS THE SON OF A FAMOUS PIANIST...
MAYUE-SAN...
I DON'T WANT TO BE HIS BURDEN
MINATO...
I'M REALLY OKAY.
I DON'T WANT TO BE THE ONE WHO DESTROYS THAT FUTURE

YOU'LL GET A COLD.
THIS ISN'T A GOOD PLACE TO TALK
LET'S GO BACK.
I'LL SEND YOU HOME.
WHY...?
...
WHY AM I ALWAYS LIKE THAT?

WHY AM I ALWAYS A BURDEN TO EVERYONE?
FATHER!
DIDN'T I TELL YOU NOT TO DRINK SO MUCH?
IT ISN'T GOOD FOR YOUR HEALTH!
SHUT UP!
WHY ARE YOU ORDERING ME AROUND?
YOU ARE A LOUSY SON!
I DON'T NEED A SON LIKE YOU!
SWISH
WHO DO YOU THINK BROUGHT YOU UP?

M. YUE-SAN?
SMACK
AH?
HOW DOES THAT FEEL?
DON'T FORGET HOW MUCH YOUR HAND HURTS WHEN YOU HIT.
IT'S THE SAME KIND OF PAIN YOU'RE INFLICTING ON YOUR SON.
DO YOU THINK YOU CAN KEEP TREATING YOUR SON SO BADLY?
DON'T TREAT HIM LIKE AN OBJECT THAT'S MEANT TO BE DISCARDED!

I'M JUST SOMEONE WHO'S CONCERNED ABOUT MINATO.
WHO ARE YOU?
THAT'S WHY I WON'T LET HIM STAY HERE WITH YOU
I'M TAKING HIM WITH ME.
IT'S TRUE THAT PARENTS CAN'T CHOOSE THEIR CHILDREN, BUT THE SAME GOES FOR THE CHILDREN. THEY CAN'T CHOOSE THEIR PARENTS EITHER!
YOU'RE OKAY WITH THIS, RIGHT?
HE TREATS YOU BADLY ANYWAY
LET'S GO, MINATO.
SLAM

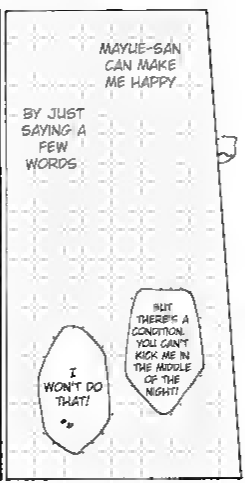
YOU CAN CHANGE INTO THAT.
RUSTLE
BEFORE THE COMPETITION ENDS, STAY HERE, WITH ME.
IT WON'T.
AS LONG AS YOU'RE WITHIN MY LINE OF SIGHT, I WON'T GET WORRIED.
THAT WOULD BE A WEEK.
WOULDN'T THAT DISTURB YOU?
ANYWAYS, YOU NEED TO BE AWAY FROM YOUR FATHER FOR A WHILE, SO YOU CAN THINK THINGS OVER.

NO, YOU DON'T NEED TO CHANGE
I FEEL LIKE CHANGING MYSELF.
NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, I'M MAKING THINGS WORSE.
I REALLY HATE MYSELF.
WHY...
AM I ALWAYS A BURDEN TO EVERYONE, MAYUE-SAN?
I LIKE YOU AS YOU ARE RIGHT NOW.
HE DIDN'T CARE ABOUT MY MOTHER OR ABOUT ME...
MY FATHER ALWAYS PUT HIS PIANO BEFORE EVERY-THING.
HAVE I EVER SPOKEN TO YOU ABOUT MY FATHER?
I...

MY MOTHER PASSED AWAY WHEN I WAS EIGHTEEN
AND THAT WAS WHEN MY FATHER WAS IN PARIS.
WHEN I ENTERED UNIVERSITY,
I DECIDED TO STUDY MUSIC,
SINCE I'VE BEEN PLAYING WHEN I WAS THREE.
I NEVER THOUGHT THAT MY FATHER
WOULD OBJECT VIOLENTLY TO THE MERE IDEA OF IT.
BUT BECAUSE HE OBJECTED,
I SWORE TO MYSELF THAT I WOULD STUDY IT.
WHEN I STARTED UNIVERSITY, HE PASSED AWAY.
THAT'S WHY,
I PLAYED MUSIC, NOT BECAUSE I LIKED IT.
MAYUE-SAN
DO YOU KNOW WHY?
BUT I GREW TO LIKE IT LATELY,

IT'S BECAUSE OF YOU.
I DON'T KNOW HOW TO SAY IT,
BUT I DO LIKE PLAYING THE PIANO.
SO I ALWAYS SAID THAT I DIDN'T LIKE IT.
BUT I NEVER SAID IT... I'M TOO STUBBORN
BUT EVER SINCE YOU CAME,
YOU KEPT TELLING ME THAT YOU LIKED IT VERY MUCH
I LEARNED HOW TO BE MORE HONEST WITH MY FEELINGS
AND REALIZED HOW MUCH I LIKED IT TOO
IF IT WASN'T FOR YOU, I WOULD'VE NEVER KNOWN WHAT IT WAS TO REALLY ENJOY PLAYING THE PIANO.
IT'S ALL THANKS TO YOU!
HOW CAN YOU SAY YOU'RE MY BURDEN?

HE SAVED MY HEART!
I'LL WORK HARD...
BEFORE YOUR COMPETITION, I'LL PATCH THINGS UP WITH FATHER.
SO MAYLIE-SAN CAN GO TO VIENNA WITHOUT WORRYING ABOUT ME


MAYLIE-SAN CAN MAKE ME HAPPY...
BY JUST SAYING A FEW WORDS
I WON'T DO THAT!
BUT THERE'S A CONDITION. YOU CAN'T KICK ME IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT!!

AFTER HE SAID THAT, I FELT SO MUCH HAPPIER.

MU
OH, HE FELL ASLEEP ALREADY!
He's so annoying.
FUU
SU-
ABOUT THAT...
A LITTLE LOST KITTEN!
HE'S REALLY LIKE...
FU
THE FIRST TIME I SAW HIM,
HE HAD THIS LOST KITTEN LOOK ABOUT HIM. ASKING FOR LOVE, FOR SOMEONE TO CARE ABOUT HIM...
I COULDN'T JUST LEAVE HIM

I'LL WORK HARD... BEFORE YOUR COMPETITION, I'LL PATCH THINGS UP WITH FATHER,
SO MAYUE-SAN CAN GO TO VIENNA WITHOUT WORRYING ABOUT ME
I SINCERELY HOPE...
THAT MINATO AND HIS FATHER'S RELATIONSHIP
WILL IMPROVE
BUT, ABOUT MY DECISION TO GO ABROAD OR NOT,
DOES IT HAVE SOMETHING TO DO
WITH ME WORRYING ABOUT HIM?
I CAN'T GO ON LIKE THIS!
EVER SINCE I GOT TO KNOW YOU, YOU CHANGED MY WORLD!

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ICHIJUKI TOKUSHU SPECIAL COMICS

マイ・プレシャス

My Precious

MY PRECIOUS BY HOTARU ODAGIRI ~ CHAPTER 1C + EPILOGUE

小田切ほたる

BEAUTIFUL SOUP

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SPECIAL THANKS TO HAWKIE *HEART*

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